The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces its

2017-2018 FALL COMEDY SEASON
Presenting Sponsor Capital One®

Featuring
Whoopi Goldberg
Trevor Noah
The Second City’s When Life Gives You Clemens
Robert Post’s Comedy Theatre for Kids
Gabriel Iglesias
Josh Blue
Al Madrigal
The Second City’s Twist Your Dickens

And

Mark Twain Prize 20th Anniversary Celebration
The Art of Robert Risko—Mark Twain Prize Exhibit

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced today a series of comedy shows featuring high-profile acts as part of Comedy at the Kennedy Center’s 2017–2018 season. Capital One® continues, in its fourth year, as Presenting Sponsor of the series, which is a signature program at the Center focused on elevating comedy as an art form and uniting the local community through laughter. The 2017–2018 fall season features headlining events across the Center’s main stages, the 20th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, and monthly comedy nights on the Millennium Stage over the course of the year.
“As we continue to build upon the success of bringing diverse and wide-ranging comedic offerings to the Kennedy Center stages, the line-up for the upcoming season, alongside celebrating 20 years of the Mark Twain Prize, will continue to fill our halls with laughter,” said Matthew Winer, Director of Special Programming. “We are pleased to welcome these acclaimed and hilarious artists into our home.”

“As Washington’s hometown bank, Capital One is proud of our ongoing relationship with the Kennedy Center,” said Leanne Posko, Senior Manager, Community Relations, Capital One. “We are delighted to build on our history of collaboration with the Center and look forward to the exciting events on deck to entertain, engage, and inform the D.C. community in 2017–2018 season.”

Following the success of last season’s engagement, Trevor Noah (The Daily Show with Trevor Noah) kicks off Comedy at the Kennedy Center’s upcoming season with a two-night evening performance, September 8 & 9. The fall 2017 lineup also includes the full engagement debut of rising comedian Josh Blue, winner of NBC’s Last Comic Standing and perhaps best known as the comedian who “puts the cerebral in Cerebral Palsy”; the returns of celebrated comedians Whoopi Goldberg (2001 Mark Twain Prize recipient) and Al Madrigal; the world premiere of When Life Gives You Clemens, the brand new show created by The Second City especially for the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor week-of festivities; an exhibit showcasing the art of Robert Risko, the celebrated caricaturist for the Mark Twain Prize which will be presented to David Letterman on October 22, 2017; a one-man comedy theater variety show for kids from Robert Post; a distinct stand-up comedy performance by Gabriel Iglesias; and as previously announced as part of the 2017–2018 Theater Season, The Second City’s wicked parody of Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol, Twist Your Dickens. Additional winter and spring comedy events, as well as details for the third annual District of Comedy Festival in summer 2018 and Millennium Stage events for the Mark Twain Prize 20th Anniversary Celebration will be announced at a later date.
**2017-2018 Comedy Season Schedule**

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*Additional programs will be announced at a later date. Artists and performances are subject to change.*

**TREVOR NOAH, Concert Hall**

**September 8 & 9, 2017**

Trevor Noah is the most successful comedian in Africa and is the host of the Emmy® and Peabody® Award-winning *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central. This year *The Daily Show* has been nominated for a Writers Guild Award (Comedy/Variety Series). Noah joined *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in 2014 as a contributor. Noah debuted his ninth new comedy special *Afraid of the Dark* in February 2017 on Netflix. The special was shot before a packed house in New York City at the Beacon Theatre on November 5, 2016. Last year, Noah debuted his one-hour stand-up special, *Trevor Noah: Lost in Translation*, on Comedy Central. Noah was the subject of David Paul Meyer’s award-winning documentary film *You Laugh But It’s True* which tells the story of his remarkable career in post-apartheid South Africa. His Showtime comedy special, *Trevor Noah: African American* premiered in 2013. He was nominated for “Personality of the Year” at the 2014 and 2015 MTV Africa Music Awards and won the award in 2015. Noah’s success has also spanned to sold out shows over five continents.

**THE ART OF ROBERT RISKO, CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE MARK TWAIN PRIZE, Hall of Nations**

**October 2017**

Today’s most celebrated caricaturist Robert Risko has created the caricatures for the Kennedy Center MarkTwain prize since 2002 and his drawings provide the basis for the show’s main titles. He began his career by following in the footsteps of his mentor
Andy Warhol and moved to New York City from Pittsburgh. He started drawing iconic celebrity portraits in his inimitable graphic style for Warhol’s trendy downtown magazine, *Interview.* Risko recalls, “New York was a petrie dish of creativity back then with people like Mapplethorpe and Madonna pushing the envelope. It was an amazing time to be starting out then.” His style embodies the spirit of the 1930s *Vanity Fair* caricaturists Miguel Covarrubias and Paolo Garretto, the latter of which he corresponded with until his death in 1989. At age 25, he was chosen by renowned art director Bea Feitler along with *Rolling Stone* photographer Annie Leibovitz and artist Keith Haring to define the look of the new *Vanity Fair* when the magazine was relaunched in 1983. He has been a contributor ever since. Risko’s work is published regularly in most major magazines including *The New Yorker, Rolling Stone, Playboy, Vanity Fair, Esquire,* and *Interview.* His latest book is *Vanity Fair’s Proust Questionnaire: 101 Luminaries Ponder Love, Death, Happiness, and the Meaning of Life* (Rodale). *Part of Mark Twain Prize 20th Anniversary Celebration.*

**JOSH BLUE, Terrace Theater**  
**October 11, 2017**  
Perhaps best known as the comedian who puts the cerebral in Cerebral Palsy, Josh Blue centers much of his self-deprecating act around his disability. He exploded onto the national comedy scene by capturing the attention and endearment of the country as the winner of NBC’s *Last Comic Standing.* He has since starred in *Comedy Central Presents: Josh Blue,* which received rave reviews from fans and critics alike and was named the 11th best special on the network in 2011. In 2012, he released a one-hour Showtime special, *Sticky Change,* where he cracks jokes and tells stories about everything from being a white African-American, to dealing with cabbies who think he’ll pay in sticky change. He has appeared twice on Ron White’s *Comedy Salute to the Troops* on CMT and made his late night television debut on *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson.* His latest one-hour special, *DELETE,* was released in 2016 and is available on Amazon Prime. Possessed with an undeniable likeability and comedic timing that belies his youthfulness; Blue continues to break down stereotypes of people with disabilities one laugh at a time. His stand-up routine is in a constant state of evolution and his off-the-cuff improvisational skills guarantee that no two shows are exactly the same.

**WHOOPPI GOLDBERG, Concert Hall**  
**October 13, 2017**  
Whoopie Goldberg has won numerous awards and received considerable acclaim for her work in film, television, theater, and recordings. She is equally well-known for her tireless humanitarian efforts on behalf of children, the homeless, human rights, education, substance abuse, and the battle against AIDS, as well as many other causes and charities. Born and raised in New York City, Goldberg worked in theater and improvisation in San Diego and the Bay Area, where she performed with the Blake Street Hawkeyes theater troupe. It was there that she created the characters that became *The Spook Show,* which evolved into the hit Broadway show, Grammy® Award-winning album and HBO special *Whoopi Goldberg, Direct from Broadway,* that helped launch her career. Goldberg is a best-selling author, prolific producer and one of the few artists who have won an Emmy, Grammy®, Oscar, and Tony Award. *Part of Mark Twain Prize 20th Anniversary Celebration.*
THE SECOND CITY’S WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU CLEMENS, Family Theater
October 19 & 20, 2017
Join American comedy institution The Second City for a night of laughter that pays tribute to a far greater and more beloved American comedy institution, Mark Twain. *When Life Gives you Clemens* finds humor in the same things Twain did: satire, politics, and human nature. So catch a riverboat—or maybe an Uber—to the Kennedy Center for an evening of comedy everyone can relate to. *When Life Gives you Clemens* promises to hit the Mark...Twain, that is. Part of Mark Twain Prize 20th Anniversary Celebration.

ROBERT POST’S COMEDY THEATRE FOR KIDS, Family Theater
October 21, 2017
It’s a one-man variety show—an act unlike anything you’ve ever experienced. Once Robert Post takes the stage, you can’t take your eyes off him. Hilarious, poignant, and physically dazzling, his meticulously crafted sketches fill the stage with bumbler, dreamers, and cartoonish heroes of every stripe. One moment he’s a bungling burglar, the next a physics-defying stunt pilot. Audiences literally gasp in amazement at Post’s lightning-fast pace, flawless timing, and comedic grace. Post serves as his own witty master of ceremonies, improvising as he banters with people in the crowd. And when he ducks offstage, video clips take you on the road with him as he travels the world, visiting off-beat attractions and doing quirky interviews with the people he meets. “Post merits a place on anybody’s all-star team of the goofily gifted,” the New York Times has written. Matt Lauer of the Today show said: “I like him because he’s insane, completely insane.” Recommended for ages eight and up. Part of Mark Twain Prize 20th Anniversary Celebration.

THE MARK TWAIN PRIZE FOR AMERICAN HUMOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, Concert Hall
October 22, 2017
The *Mark Twain Prize* recognizes people who have had an impact on American society in ways similar to the distinguished 19th century novelist and essayist best known as Mark Twain. As a social commentator, satirist and creator of memorable characters, Samuel Clemens was a fearless observer of society, who startled and outraged many while delighting and informing many more with his uncompromising perspective of social injustice and personal folly. He revealed the great truth of humor when he said “against the assault of laughter nothing can stand.” This year, the 20th annual Mark Twain Prize will be presented to David Letterman. For further information about this year’s celebration, please see The Mark Twain Prize press release.

GABRIEL IGLESIAS, Concert Hall
November 17, 2017
Iglesias is one of America’s most successful stand-up comedians performing to sold-out concerts around the world. He is also one of the most watched comedians on YouTube with over 300 million views. The comedian has had the distinct honor of being one of the few to headline and sell-out Madison Square Garden and The Microsoft Theater. Celebrating 20 years in standup comedy, Iglesias is currently on the new world tour, *FluffyMania World Tour: 20 Years of Comedy*. Fans can watch his sixth one-hour comedy special, *I’m Sorry For What I Said When I Was Hungry* currently
streaming on Netflix. Fluffy’s Food Adventures, a non-scripted comedic docu-follow series co-starring Iglesias’s eccentric tour mates will launch its third season on Fuse TV later this summer. His big screen credits include Magic Mike, Magic Mike XXL, A Haunted House 2, and The Fluffy Movie along with his numerous voiceover credits in animated films including the upcoming The Nut Job 2 and Ferdinand releasing later this year.

AL MADRIGAL, Terrace Theater
November 18, 2017
As programs like The Moth Radio Hour and This American Life turn more and more people on to the power of a well-told story, comedian Al Madrigal becomes more and more popular. With good reason, as The Daily Show’s “Senior Latino Correspondent” is perhaps the most hilarious storyteller to hit the stage since David Sedaris. His true-life tales have been featured on The Tonight Show, Conan, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and Jimmy Kimmel. He was named Best Stand-Up Comedian at the HBO U.S. Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, and his hour-long special for ABC and Univision that won the 2015 Storyteller Award at the Mixed Remixed Festival in Los Angeles. Fresh off his lauded comedy special Shrimpin’ Ain’t Easy for Showtime and his starring role in Showtime’s I’m Dying Up Here, Madrigal, the man who “will make you howl until you spit expensive mineral water from your nose” (New York Post), returns after his popular 2015 engagement to headline the Kennedy Center.

THE SECOND CITY’S TWIST YOUR DICKENS, Theater Lab
December 5–31, 2017
As previously announced as part of the 2017–2018 Theater Season, Twist Your Dickens returns to the Kennedy Center following its hugely popular 2016 engagement. In this wicked parody of Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol, Scrooge, Tiny Tim, three ridiculous ghosts, and a cast of The Second City’s funniest members take the Theater Lab by storm. Holiday hilarity ensues as a timeless tale is told through the legendary troupe’s trademark improvisation and sketch performance.

ABOUT COMEDY AT THE KENNEDY CENTER
Comedy at the Kennedy Center is an initiative focused on elevating comedy as an art form and uniting the local community through laughter. Made possible with support from Presenting Sponsor Capital One®, Comedy at the Kennedy Center programs include mainstage productions, such as Shear Madness; a Signature Comedy Series, which features high-profile comedic artists; the annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor; the District of Comedy Festival, which launched in summer of 2016; ongoing collaborations with Chicago’s The Second City; and monthly comedy nights on the Millennium Stage. Since 2013, Comedy at the Kennedy Center has reached more than 400,000 people through live performances that have included some of comedy’s biggest stars—Judd Apatow, Mel Brooks, Whoopi Goldberg, Jay Leno, Tracy Morgan, and John Oliver—and over 6 million people across the nation via television broadcast.

ABOUT CAPITAL ONE
Capital One Financial Corporation, headquartered in McLean, Virginia, is a Fortune 500 company with more than 900 branch locations primarily in the District of Columbia, New York,
New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Maryland, and Virginia. Its subsidiaries, which include Capital One, N.A., and Capital One Bank (USA), N. A., offer a broad spectrum of financial products and services to consumers, small businesses and commercial clients. We apply the same principles of innovation, collaboration, and empowerment in our commitment to our communities across the country that we do in our business. We recognize that helping to build strong and healthy communities—good places to work, good places to do business and good places to raise families—benefits us all and we are proud to support this and other community initiatives. To learn more, visit capitaloneinvestingforgood.com.

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**TICKET INFORMATION**

For more information regarding subscription tickets, go online (www.kennedy-center.org/subscribe) or call the Subscription Office at (202) 416-8500, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Subscriptions may be purchased in advance of general on sale dates. Group sales (for groups of 20 or more people) are available only for The Second City’s two shows. For more information regarding group tickets, call the Group Sales Office at (202) 416-8400, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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